

**Audio/Video Apparatus for Use with a Cable Television Network****Abstract**

An apparatus for transmitting multimedia data to a set-top box for distribution to a  
5 headend of a cable television. The apparatus includes an input for a signal containing  
multimedia data. The apparatus has a module for compressing the multimedia  
data and also a packetizing module. The packetizing module adds a header.  
Since the headend is the only destination of the multimedia data, a destination  
address is unnecessary in the header, but the header does include an indicator as  
10 to source and an order identifier for each of the packets. The headend can then  
receive the packets, re-order the packets and decompress the multimedia data.  
The data may then be processed by a processor at the headend that is assigned at  
the beginning of an interactive session.